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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science & Technology

SUBJECT : Civil Defense Warning Signals
and Tests

1. This memorandum is for your information only.
2. Changes in the Civil Defense Warning Signals and dates of testing have been instituted by Region 2, Office of Civil Defense. In the past the warning signals were tested on the second Saturday of each month at 1155 hours. Effective 12 July 1967 at 1100 hours and at the same time on the second Wednesday of each month thereafter, the Washington Warning Center, Office of Civil Defense, Region 2, will test the outdoor Civil Defense Warning System and the indoor Civil Defense Bell and Light System in the Metropolitan Washington area.
3. The meaning and application of the Civil Defense Warning Signals as recently redefined by the Office of Civil Defense, Office of the Secretary of the Army, are as follows:
 - a. The Attack Warning Signal formerly the Take Cover Signal. The nature of the signal remains the same, namely a wavering tone or a series of short blasts. The duration, formerly three minutes, is now three to five minutes. The new meaning of this signal is: An actual attack against the country has been detected. Take protective action immediately. Take the best available shelter.

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b. The Attention or Alert Signal formerly the Alert Signal. The nature and duration of the signal are unchanged, namely a steady blast of three to five minutes. The new meaning for this signal is: Listen for essential emergency information. / This may refer to a natural disaster or other critical situation. Public explanation and instructions will be disseminated by local broadcast stations or other methods of communication. The use of this signal is optional by the local government. Its use in the Metropolitan Washington area is not contemplated at this time.

4. Agency buildings in the Metropolitan Washington area which have the internal Bell and Light System installed will not participate in these tests. However, the outdoor Civil Defense Warning System, which is controlled by the Washington Warning Center, will be activated and tested, emitting alarms which may be heard inside some Agency buildings. Unless otherwise notified in advance, Agency employees will remain at their work stations during these tests.

R. L. Bannerman
Deputy Director
for Support

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